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The infelicity lies in making it easy for people to misinterpret the revolution -- to take the people's blood as payment for "honor," which of course is a clear case of an individualist hero-complex line of thinking. Kuo was simply a little too frank and honest.

5. On 5 April, the Hsin-hua News Agency issued an editorial over the Peiping Radio entitled "A Demand That the Nanking Government Surrender to the People." One statement read, "Now the Chinese people and the Chinese Communist Party promise them an opportunity to redeem themselves under the eight-point conditions; what great imperial clemency this is!" When the Nanking delegates in Peiping saw the phrase "imperial clemency," their faces and ears became red. Chang Shih-chien, an experienced literateur, called the attention of Chou En-lai to this, saying, "The use of this expression is not very suitable." At one Chou En-lai explained and confessed in these words: "Yes indeed, unsuitable! Yes indeed, unsuitable! It would have been better to say 'Generous favor.'" He then instructed the news agency to be more careful in its choice of words.

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